

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A joining member for mechanically joining a skin to a supporting rib, the joining member comprising:

a first surface adapted for bonding to a surface of the skin via a layer of a first adhesive material, wherein the first surface comprises at least one ridge extending therefrom for determining a bond-line thickness of the first adhesive material; and

a second surface opposite the first surface and comprising a groove having an inner surface adapted for receiving and bonding to an outer edge of the rib via a layer of a second adhesive material.

2. (Original) The joining member as recited in claim 1, wherein the first surface extends along a longitudinal axis of the joining member and is substantially planar.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The joining member as recited in claim [3] 1, wherein an upper surface of the at least one ridge is elevated above the [substantially planar] first surface, and wherein the elevated upper surface of the at least one ridge determines [a] the bond-line thickness of the first adhesive material.

5. (Currently Amended) The joining member as recited in claim [3] 1, wherein the at least one ridge comprises a ridge positioned near a centerline of the first surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The joining member as recited in claim [3] 1, wherein the first surface comprises a pair of ridges extending along the longitudinal axis of the joining member.

7. (Original) The joining member as recited in claim 6, wherein the pair of ridges are positioned along opposite outer edges of the first surface.
8. (Original) The joining member as recited in claim 1, wherein the groove extends along a longitudinal axis of the joining member, and wherein the inner surface of the groove comprises a pair of substantially planar sidewall surfaces.
9. (Currently Amended) The joining member as recited in claim 8, wherein [the] each of the pair of sidewall surfaces comprises a ridge.
10. (Original) The joining member as recited in claim 9, wherein each of the ridges has an upper surface elevated above the corresponding substantially planar sidewall surface, and wherein the elevated upper surface determines a bond-line thickness of the second adhesive material.
11. (Original) The joining member as recited in claim 10, wherein each of the ridges is positioned at an edge of corresponding sidewall surface near an opening of the groove.
12. (Original) The joining member as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
a pair of opposed side surfaces each having a plurality of notches allowing the joining member to be easily curved or bent.
13. (Original) The joining member as recited in claim 1, wherein the skin forms at least part of an airfoil.

14. (Currently Amended) A structure for supporting two opposed skins, the structure comprising:

a rib having a pair of opposed outer edges;

a pair of joining members, each comprising:

a first surface adapted for bonding to a surface of one of the skins via an adhesive layer, wherein the first surface comprises at least one ridge extending therefrom for determining a bond-line thickness of the adhesive layer;

a second surface opposite the first surface and comprising a groove having an inner surface adapted for receiving and bonding to an outer edge of the rib via [an] another adhesive layer;

wherein one of the outer edges of the rib extends into the groove of a corresponding one of the pair of joining members and is bonded to the corresponding joining member via a [layer of a] first adhesive layer formed in the grove of the corresponding joining member; and

wherein the other outer edge of the rib extends into the groove of the other joining member and is bonded to the other joining member via a second adhesive layer formed in the groove of the other joining member.

15. (Original) The structure as recited in claim 14, wherein a bond-line thickness of the first adhesive layer is determined by a pair of ridges extending outward from substantially planar sidewall surfaces of the groove of the corresponding joining member.

16. (Original) The structure as recited in claim 14, wherein a bond-line thickness of the second adhesive layer is determined by a pair of ridges extending outward from substantially planar sidewall surfaces of the groove of the other joining member.

17. (Original) The structure as recited in claim 14, wherein the first and second adhesive layers comprise epoxy adhesive materials.

18-20. (Canceled)